

1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image input means for inputting an image;

storage means for storing the image;

image forming means for forming the image stored in said storage means;

and

control means for controlling said image forming means in accordance with an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data regarding a number of times image forming operations are performed by said image forming means and a second processing condition different from the first processing condition, set for an image forming process,

wherein a function is provided that can set a trial image forming mode for an image forming process in accordance with the image forming mode, and can halt the image forming process temporarily and enable the image forming mode to be reset after a predetermined number of image forming operations are performed based on the second processing condition and regardless of the numeric data of the first processing condition, when the trial image forming mode is effective, and

wherein the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process to be performed after the trial image forming mode is released is controlled in accordance with a state of reset for the image forming mode in a halted state of the image forming process,

wherein when the state of reset for the image forming mode is to reset the second processing condition, the numeric data of the first processing condition for the

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image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released is set as the numeric data of the first processing condition before the trial image forming mode was executed, and when the state of reset for the image forming mode is to reset the first processing condition, the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released is not set as the numeric data of the first processing condition before the trial image forming mode was executed.

2. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in an image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released, when the numeric data of the first processing condition is changed in the temporarily halted state, the image forming process is performed a number of times equivalent to the changed numeric data.

3. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in an image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released, when a processing condition other than the numeric data of the first processing condition is changed in the halted state, the image forming process is performed a number of times equivalent to the numeric data previously set.

4. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in an image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released, when the numeric data of the first processing condition is not changed in the halted state, the

numeric data is decremented by one and the image forming process is performed a number of times equivalent to the numeric data that is newly obtained.

5. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the trial image forming mode, trial image forming is performed for only one set, and the numeric data of the first processing condition that is set is unchanged.

6. (Amended) An image forming method comprising the steps of:


inputting an image;

storing the image;

forming the stored image;

controlling formation of the stored image in accordance with an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data regarding a number of times image forming operations are performed and a second processing condition different from the first processing condition, set for an image forming process; and

enabling setting of a trial image forming mode for an image forming process in accordance with the image forming mode, where the trial image forming mode can halt the image forming process temporarily and enable the image forming mode to be reset after a predetermined number of image forming operations are performed based on the second processing condition and regardless of the numeric data of the first processing condition, when the trial image forming mode is effective,



wherein the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process to be performed after the trial image forming mode is released is controlled in accordance with a state of reset for the image forming mode in a halted state of the image forming process,

wherein when the state of reset for the image forming mode is to reset the second processing condition, the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released is set as the numeric data of the first processing condition before the trial image forming mode was executed, and when the state of reset for the image forming mode is to reset the first processing condition, the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released is not set as the numeric data of the first processing condition before the trial image forming mode was executed.

7. (Amended) A storage medium on which a program is stored to carry out an image forming method, the image forming method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image;

storing the image;

forming the stored image;

controlling formation of the stored image in accordance with an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data regarding a number of times image forming operations are performed and a second processing condition different from the first

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processing condition, set for an image forming process; and

enabling setting of a trial image forming mode for an image forming process in accordance with the image forming mode, where the trial image forming mode can halt the image forming process temporarily and enable the image forming mode to be reset after a predetermined number of image forming operations are performed based on the second processing condition and regardless of the numeric data of the first processing condition, when the trial image forming mode is effective,

wherein the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process to be performed after the trial image forming mode is released is controlled in accordance with a state of reset for the image forming mode in a halted state of the image forming process,

wherein when the state of reset for the image forming mode is to reset the second processing condition, the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released is set as the numeric data of the first processing condition before the trial image forming mode was executed, and when the state of reset for the image forming mode is to reset the first processing condition, the numeric data of the first processing condition for the image forming process after the trial image forming mode is released is not set as the numeric data of the first processing condition before the trial image forming mode was executed.

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8. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on

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an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data related to a number of times image forming operations are performed by said image forming means and a second processing condition different from the first processing condition, set via a first setting operation by a user; and

control means for controlling a trial image forming mode for performing a first image forming operation for performing an image forming operation a predetermined number of times based on the second processing condition and regardless of the numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode set in the first setting operation, and for allowing a reset of the image forming mode via a second setting operation by the user after the first image forming operation is performed,

wherein said control means controls so as to perform a second image forming operation for performing an image forming operation a number of times corresponding to the numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode set in the first setting operation, after the first image forming operation is performed, when a reset of the image forming mode via the second setting operation does not include a reset of the first processing condition, and

wherein the second image forming operation is not performed when the image forming mode is not reset via the second setting operation or when a reset of the image forming mode via the second setting operation includes a reset of the first processing condition.

9. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means controls so as to perform the second image forming operation for performing an image forming operation a number of times corresponding to the numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode set via the first setting operation, based on the second processing condition of the image forming mode reset via the second setting operation, when a reset of the image forming mode via the second setting operation does not include a reset of the first processing condition.

10. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means controls so as to perform a third image forming operation which performs an image forming operation a number of times in accordance with the numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode set via the first setting operation and data related to the predetermined number of times in the first image forming operation, based on the second processing condition of the image forming mode set via the first setting operation, after the first image forming operation is performed, when the image forming mode is not reset via the second setting operation.

11. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined number of times in the first image forming operation is one, and the third image forming operation performs the image forming operation a number of times corresponding to the number obtained by subtracting one from the numeric data of the first processing condition set via the first setting operation.

12. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means controls so as to perform a fourth image forming operation which performs an image forming operation a number of times corresponding to numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode reset via the second setting operation, based on the second processing condition of the image forming mode reset via the second setting operation, after the first image forming operation is performed, when the first processing condition is reset via the second setting operation.

13. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the second processing condition includes processing conditions related to any of sheet selection, sort setting, margin setting, density setting, and two-face image forming.

14. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means displays a screen for the first setting operation and a screen for the second setting operation, on a display unit.

15. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the image data from at least either a scanner or an external apparatus can be printed in the trial image forming mode.



16. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the image data read according to a user operation can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

17. (New) A control method of an image forming apparatus which has image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions including a first processing condition for numeric data related to a number of times image forming operations are performed by the image forming means and a second processing condition different from the first processing condition, set via first setting operation by a user, said method comprising the step of:

controlling a trial image forming mode for performing a first image forming operation for performing an image forming operation a predetermined number of times based on the second processing condition and regardless of the numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode set in the first setting operation, and for allowing a reset of the image forming mode via a second setting operation by the user after the first image forming operation is performed,

wherein said control step controls so as to perform a second image forming operation for performing an image forming operation a number of times corresponding to the numeric data of the first processing condition of the image forming mode set in the first setting operation, after the first image forming operation is performed, when a reset of the image forming mode in the second setting operation does not include a reset of the first

processing condition, and

wherein the second image forming operation is not performed when the image forming mode is not reset via the second setting operation or when a reset of the image forming mode via the second setting operation includes a reset of the first processing condition.

18. (New) A control method of an image forming apparatus which has image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said control method comprising:

a control step of controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control step controls so as to prohibit executing of the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

19. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein the image forming mode includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data related to a number of times image forming operations are performed by the image forming means, and

wherein said control step controls so as to prohibit executing the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the first processing condition of the

image forming mode in the first setting operation.

20. (New) A control method according to claim 19, wherein said control step controls so as to prohibit executing of the trial image forming mode when the value of the numeric data of the first processing condition set in the first setting operation is below a predetermined value, and controls so as to allow executing of the trial image forming mode when the value of the numeric data of the first processing condition set in the first setting operation is greater than or equal to the predetermined value.

21. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein the image forming mode comprises a plurality of processing conditions including a first processing condition for selecting a sorting mode or a non-sorting mode, and

wherein said control step controls so as to prohibit executing of the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the first processing condition of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

22. (New) A control method according to claim 21, wherein said control step controls so as to prohibit executing of the trial image forming mode when the first processing condition set in the first setting operation is the non-sorting mode, and controls so as to allow executing of the trial image forming mode when the first processing condition set in the first setting operation is the sorting mode.

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23. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein said control step controls to display a setting screen for the first setting operation by the user to display on a display unit,

said control step controls to execute the trial image forming mode in accordance with a user instruction to request execution of the trial image forming mode input through the display unit, and

said control step prohibits the execution of the trial image forming mode by controlling the display on the display unit to make the input operation of the user's instruction impossible, and allows the execution of the trial image forming mode by controlling the display on the display unit to make the input operation of the user's instruction possible.

24. (New) A control method according to claim 18, further comprising a selection step of enabling selection of whether the image forming operation is to be executed with the setting contents of the image forming mode set through the first setting operation as it is or whether the setting of the image forming mode set through the first setting operation is to be changed, after the trial image forming mode is executed.

25. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein the image forming mode includes a plurality of processing conditions related to any of numeric data related to a number of image forming operations, sheet selection, sort setting, margin setting, density setting and two-face image forming.

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26. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein said control step controls to display a setting screen for the first setting operation by the user, and causes a display unit to perform a display by which it is possible to discriminate that the trial image forming mode is being executed on the display unit the said trial image forming mode is being executed.

27. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein the image data from at least either a scanner or an external apparatus can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

28. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein image data read according to a user operation from an image storage means can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

29. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein said control step controls to store the image forming mode in a memory so that the image forming mode for the image forming operation can be read even after the trial image forming mode is executed.

30. (New) A control method according to claim 18, wherein said control step controls to store the image in a memory so that the image used in the image forming

operation in the trial image forming mode can be used also in an image forming operation executed after the trial image forming mode.

31. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user; and

control means for controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control means controls so as to prohibit executing of the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

32. (New) A control method of an image forming apparatus which has

image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data related to a number of times image forming operations are performed by the image forming means and a second processing condition for selecting a sorting mode or a non-sorting mode, set via a first setting operation by a user, said control method comprising:

a control step of controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image

forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control step controls so as to determine allowance/prohibition of executing the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the first processing condition and a state of setting of the second processing condition of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

33. (New) A control method according to claim 32, wherein said control step controls so as to allow the executing of the trial image forming mode when the value of the numeric data of the first processing condition set in the first setting operation is greater than or equal to a predetermined value and the second processing condition set in the first setting operation is the sorting mode, and controls so as to prohibit the executing of the trial image forming mode when the value of the numeric data of the first processing condition set in the first setting operation is below the predetermined value or when the second processing condition set in the first setting operation is the non-sorting mode.

34. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data related to a number of times image forming operations are performed by said image forming means and a second processing condition for selecting a sorting mode or a non-sorting mode, set via a first setting operation by a user; and

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control means for controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control means controls so as to determine allowance/prohibition of executing the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the first processing condition and a state of setting of the second processing condition of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

35. (New) A control method of an image forming apparatus which has image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said control method comprising:

a control step of controlling so as to execute a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation in accordance with an instruction for requesting an executing of the trial image forming mode from a user,

wherein said control step controls so as to execute a first display for the first setting operation by the user on a display unit, and

wherein said control step controls so as to execute a second display for inputting the instruction from the user on the display unit.

36. (New) A control method according to claim 35, wherein said control step controls so as to determine allowance/prohibition of executing the second display for



inputting the instruction from the user in accordance with a state of setting of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

37. (New) A control method according to claim 36, wherein said control step controls, when permitting the executing of the second display, so that the second display can be executed in a state that the first display is being executed on the display unit, and controls, when prohibiting the executing of the second display, so that the second display is not executed in the state that the first display is being executed on the display unit.

38. (New) A control method according to claim 35, wherein said control step controls to execute the trial image forming mode, in accordance with the instruction input via the second display on the display unit.

39. (New) A control method according to claim 35, wherein the image data from at least either a scanner or an external apparatus can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

40. (New) A control method according to claim 35, wherein image data read according to a user operation from an image storage means can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

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41. (New) A control method according to claim 35, wherein said control step controls to store the image forming mode in a memory so that the image forming mode for the image forming operation can be read even after the trial image forming mode is executed.

42. (New) A control method according to claim 35, wherein said control step controls to store the image in a memory so that the image used in the image forming operation in the trial image forming mode can be used also in the image forming operation to be executed the said trial image forming mode.

43. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user; and

control means for controlling so as to execute a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation in accordance with an instruction for requesting an executing of the trial image forming mode from a user,

wherein said control means controls so as to execute a first display for the first setting operation by user on a display unit, and

wherein control means controls so as to execute a second display for inputting the instruction from the user on the display unit.

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44. (New) A control method of an image forming apparatus which has image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said control method comprising:

a control step of controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control step controls so as to execute a notification which enables the user to discriminate a first state where the image forming means is not operating in the trial image forming mode and a second state where the image forming means is operating in the trial image forming mode, and which enables the user to discriminate that the trial image forming mode is being executed in the second state.

45. (New) A control method according to claim 44, wherein said control step controls so as to execute a first display for the first setting operation by the user on a display unit, and

wherein said control step controls so as to execute the notification by causing the display unit to execute a second display for the notification.

46. (New) A control method according to claim 45, wherein said control step controls so as to execute the first display to the display unit when the image forming means is in the first state and controls so as to execute the second display to the display unit when the image forming means is in the second state.

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47. (New) A control method according to claim 44, wherein the image data from at least either a scanner or an external apparatus can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

48. (New) A control method according to claim 44, wherein the image data read according to a user operation from an image storage means can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

49. (New) A control method according to claim 44, wherein said control step controls to store the image forming mode in a memory so that the image forming mode for the image forming operation can be read after the trial image forming mode is executed.

50. (New) A control method according to claim 44, wherein said control step controls to store the image data in a memory so that the image data used in the image forming operation in the trial image forming mode can be used also in the image forming operation to be executed after the trial image forming mode.

51. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user; and  
control means for controlling a trial image forming mode which for

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performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control means controls so as to execute a notification which enables the user to discriminate a first state that said image forming means is not operating in the trial image forming mode and a second state that the image forming means is operating in the trial image forming mode, and which enables the user to discriminate that the trial image forming mode is being executed in the second state.

52. (New) A control method of an image forming apparatus which has image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said control method comprising:

a control step of controlling so as to execute a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation in accordance with an instruction for requesting execution of the trial image forming mode from a user,

wherein said control step controls to execute the trial image forming mode using image data read from an image memory by using a box function enabling the image data to be stored in the image memory irrespective of print execution of the image data and to read and execute the image data from the image memory if it is necessary to print the image data.

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53. (New) A control method according to claim 52, wherein the image data from at least either a scanner or an external apparatus can be printed in the trial image forming mode.

54. (New) A control method according to claim 52, wherein the box function can change the image forming mode every time the image data is read from the image memory.

55. (New) A control method according to claim 52, wherein said control step controls to store the image forming mode in a memory so that the image forming mode for the image forming operation can be read after the trial image forming mode is executed.

56. (New) A control method according to claim 52, wherein said control step controls to store the image forming mode in the image memory so that the image forming mode for the image forming operation can be read after the trial image forming mode is executed.

57. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
image forming means for performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user; and  
control means for controlling so as to execute a trial image forming mode

for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation in accordance with an instruction for requesting an executing of the trial image forming mode from the user,

wherein said control means controls to be able to execute the trial image forming mode using image data read from an image memory by using a box function enabling the image data to be stored in the image memory irrespective of print execution of the image data and to read and execute the image data from the image memory if it is necessary to print the image data.

58. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls to store the image forming mode in a memory so that the image forming mode for the image forming operation can be read after the trial image forming mode is executed.

59. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls to store the image in a memory so that the image used in the image forming operation in the trial image forming mode can be used also in the image forming operation executed after the trial image forming mode.

60. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means controls to store the image forming mode in a memory so that the image

forming mode for the image forming operation can be read even after the trial image forming mode is executed.

61. (New) An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control means controls to store the image in a memory so that the image used in the image forming operation in the trial image forming mode can be used also in the image forming operation to be executed after the trial image forming mode.

62. (New) A computer-readable storage medium for an image forming apparatus which has image forming means capable of performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by user, said storage medium storing a program to cause the image forming apparatus to execute:

a control step of controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control step controls so as to prohibit executing of the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

63. (New) A computer-readable storage medium for an image forming apparatus which has image forming means capable of performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode, which includes a plurality of processing



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conditions comprising a first processing condition for numeric data related to a number of times image forming operations are performed by the image forming means and a second processing condition for selecting a sorting mode or a non-sorting mode, set via a first setting operation by a user, said storage medium storing a program to cause the image forming apparatus to execute:

a control step of controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control step controls so as to determine allowance/prohibition of executing the trial image forming mode in accordance with a state of setting of the first processing condition and a state of setting of the second processing condition of the image forming mode in the first setting operation.

64. (New) A computer-readable storage medium for an image forming apparatus which has image forming means capable of performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said storage medium storing a program to cause the image forming apparatus to execute:

a control step of controlling so as to execute a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation in accordance with an instruction for requesting an executing of the trial image forming mode from a user,

wherein said control step controls so as to execute a first display for the first

setting operation by the user on a display unit, and

wherein said control step controls so as to execute a second display for inputting the instruction from the user on the display unit.

65. (New) A computer-readable storage medium for an image forming apparatus which has image forming means capable of performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said storage medium storing a program to cause the image forming apparatus to execute:

a control step of controlling a trial image forming mode for performing an image forming operation for confirming the image forming operation based on the image forming mode set via the first setting operation,

wherein said control step controls so as to execute a notification which enables the user to discriminate a first state where the image forming means is not operating in the trial image forming mode and a second state where the image forming means is operating in the trial image forming mode, and which enables the user to discriminate that the trial image forming mode is being executed in the second state.

66. (New) A computer-readable storage medium for an image forming apparatus which has image forming means capable of performing an image forming operation based on an image forming mode set via a first setting operation by a user, said storage medium storing a program to cause the image forming apparatus to execute:

a control step of controlling so as to execute a trial image forming mode for